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DATE: August 26, 2003

TO: Examiner Lorna M. Douyon  
 Group Art Unit 1751  
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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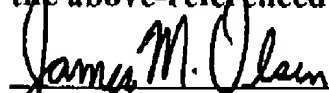
FROM: James M. Olsen

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TOTAL NO. OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

RE: Serial No. 09/380,739

MESSAGE, IF ANY: Attached is a Declaration of Gerhard Blasey for filing in the above-referenced application.



James M. Olsen, Reg. No. 40,408

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**DECLARATION OF GERHARD BLASEY**

I, Gerhard Blasey, declare as follows

1 My current address is: Henkel KGaA, Department WEV, Building  
Henkelstrasse 67, D-40191 Düsseldorf. My current job title is Director Process Development  
Detergents/Cleaners.

2 My education after high school is as follows:

1971 – 1974 University of Essen – study of chemistry  
1975 – 1981 University of Dortmund – study of chemical engineering  
1982 – 1985 University of Dortmund – doctoral thesis

3 My employment history is as follows:

1985 – today: Henkel KGaA  
1985 – 1987: Process and Technology Development  
1987 – 1989: Detergent Production, Assistant Plant Manager of Zeolite Factory,  
Sodium Sulfate Factory, Sodium Meta Silicate Factory  
1989 – 1993: Detergent Production, Plant Manager of Zeolite Factory,  
Sodium Sulfate Factory, Sodium Meta Silicate Factory  
1993 – 1996: Detergent Production, Start-Up and Plant Manager of Megaperls  
Factory  
1996 – today: Process Development Detergents/Cleaners

4 I am a member of Verein Deutscher Ingenieure.

5 I make this Declaration for submission in U.S. Patent Application Serial No.  
09/380,739 ("the '739 application").

5 I have been asked to determine whether "Arbocel A1" disclosed in U.S.  
No. 6,051,545 ("the '545 patent") is a compacted cellulose material.

6 The '739 application describes compacted cellulose materials in a detergent tablet  
that are in fact water insoluble and water swellable. These cellulose materials are described  
throughout the '739 application as functioning as a disintegrating aid. The '739 application on  
page 8 states that the cellulose granules can have a particle size of from 200 to 6000 micrometers

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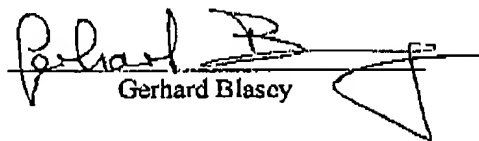
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and preferably from 300 to 1500 micrometers.

7. The polymeric materials used in Examples 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the '545 patent were "Arbocel A1", a compacted cellulose material made by J. Rettenmaier & Söhne GmbH ("Rettenmaier") that Rettenmaier supplied to Lever Brothers, the owner of the '545 patent. See column 7, lines 46-48. This compacted cellulose material was supplied to Lever Brothers a few weeks after the German priority application to the '739 application had been filed. Contrary to the statement in column 7, lines 46-48, Rettenmaier has not marketed a product under the designation "Arbocel A1." This was an arbitrary designation given by Rettenmaier's representative when he supplied the material to Lever Brothers. The Arbocel A1 product was actually an existing Rettenmaier compacted cellulose material product called Arbocel FT 00G. This is a chemo-thermo-mechanical derived wood pulp product that had been sieved before delivery to Lever Brothers to obtain a particle size range of 300 to 1500 micrometers, precisely the size range described in the '739 application, i.e., a compacted cellulose material.

I hereby declare that all the statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/380,739 or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 08-07-2003

  
Gerhard Blaszy